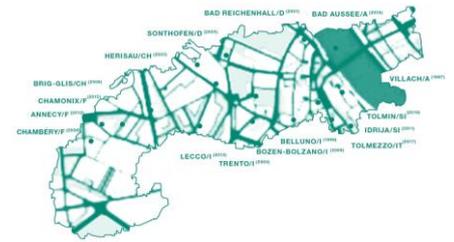


Tour des Villes in Tolmin

Study-visit on 8th and 9th March 2018



Aims

Project aims:

The aims of the project as defined in the project concept are:

- Participating alpine towns have better knowledge about the challenges of sustainable urban development and about how the transformation of conversion and empty areas and buildings can contribute to attractive and lively towns;
- Participating alpine towns have analysed a present challenge in their urban zone and received ideas, instruments, problem solving methods to tackle these in a sustainable way;
- Participating towns benefit from cross-border alpine exchange of knowledge and experience.

Aims of Tolmin:

To find solutions for the abandoned factories in Podbrdo and exchange experiences/knowledge from other towns.

Background information

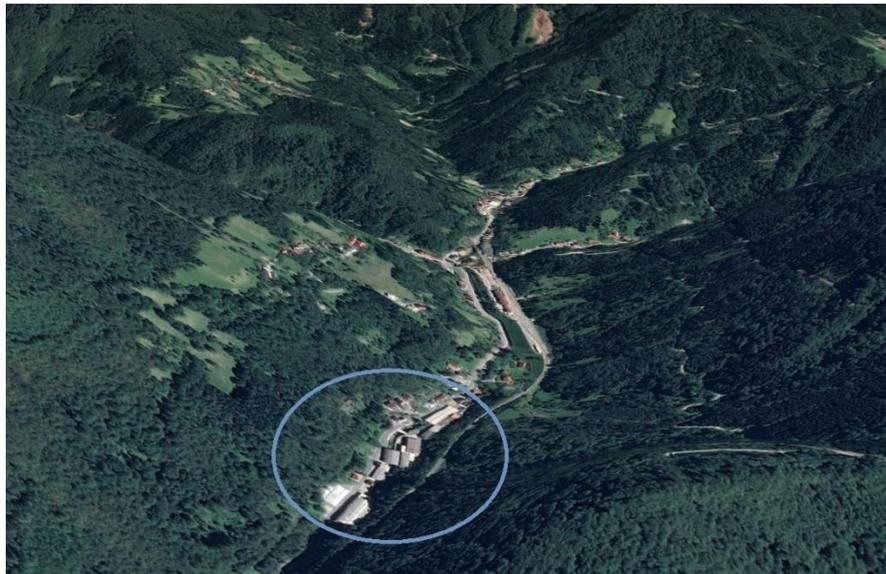
After the Second World War the Tolmin municipality (like the other parts of Slovenia) experienced fast industrial development that has improved economic situation in the area. Beside major industrial factories in Tolmin there were also several smaller factories established in the countryside that were very important for stopping depopulation in the villages. Nowadays, industry is concentrated in Tolmin basin, while most of the factories in the countryside are closed and abandoned. This fact accelerates the problem of territorial centralisation of services in Tolmin and depopulation of the countryside. Municipality of Tolmin aims at finding a solution for the revitalisation of rural and remote areas of the municipality; here the abandoned industrial facilities repopulated with innovative and attractive content can play a crucial role.

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The pilot case in this study visit is village Podbrdo in Bača Valley, one of the most remote areas of the Tolmin Municipality, where textile factory played an important role until 2002 when it was closed.



Leading questions

- Re-establish industry or remove facilities?
- Which are the potential activities that would help to revitalise the location and would bring most benefit to the economic / sustainable development of the Podbrdo/Bača Valley? Trying to find the most appropriate content.
- How to approach the revitalisation? Steps to be taken.
- How to attract investors/companies/start-ups, is it possible to present and promote the “disadvantages” of this area as an added value?
- Re-build facilities (use for other purposes) and make the location more attractive for tourism?
- How to encourage private owners/local people to participate in the process of revitalisation?

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Programme

<p>Thursday, 8th March</p>	<p>14:00</p>	<p>Welcome and introduction to Tolmin, agenda [Posoški razvojni center, Trg tigrovcev 1, 5220 Tolmin]</p> <p>Coffee + snacks</p>	<p>Mayor Uroš Brežan Claire Simon & Magdalena Holzer</p>
	<p>14:15</p>	<p>Introduction: conversion areas in Tolmin municipality [Posoški razvojni center]</p>	<p>PRC, Municipality of Tolmin</p>
	<p>14:45</p>	<p>Excursions: Tolmin and Bača Valley</p> <p>- Tolmin</p> <p>Visit of industrial zone of Tolmin, built in former military facilities</p> <p>- Bača Valley (by bus)</p> <p>Excursion through Bača Valley – visit of former industry facilities in Kneža and Podbrdo (final stop)</p>	<p>PRC, Municipality of Tolmin, Baška dediščina Association</p>
	<p>17:00</p>	<p>Common discussion followed by a dinner [Podbrdo]</p> <p>Presentation of Podbrdo case</p>	

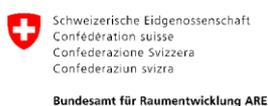
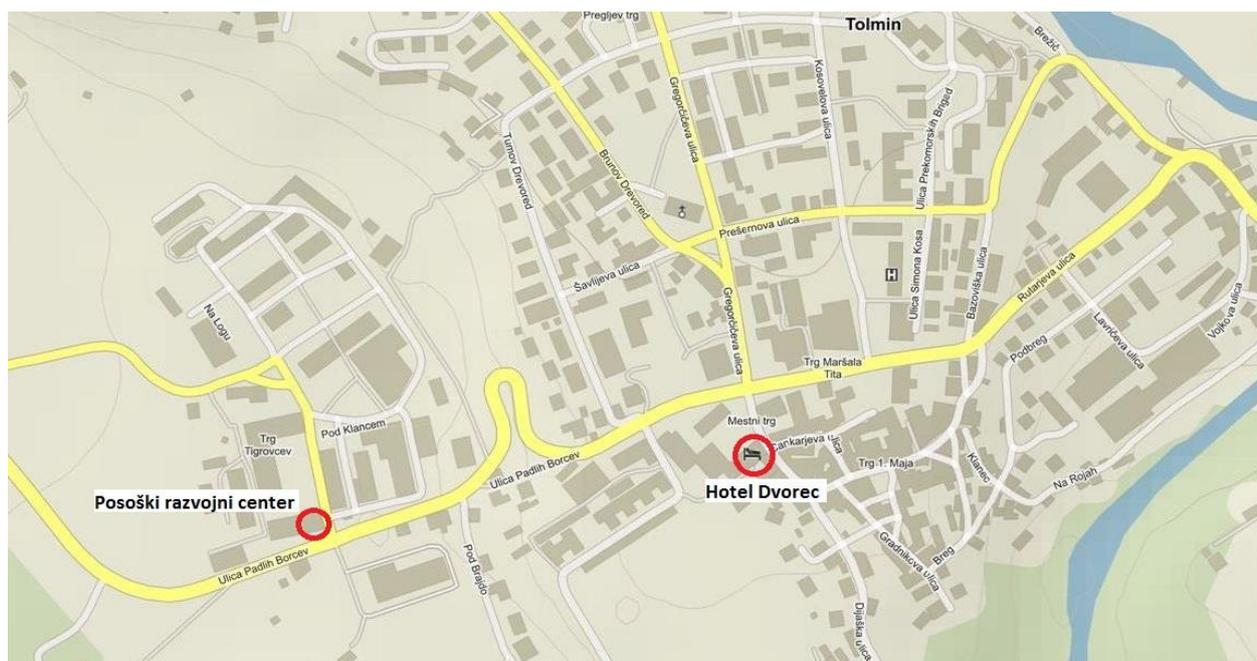
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Friday, 9 th March	8:30	<p>Thematic tables – workshop</p> <p>General question of the discussions:</p> <p>How to bring life in the areas?</p> <p>Three different focuses within three groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Position of the valley as a precondition (demographic trends, socio economic aspect) 2. Settlements and (possible) revitalisation 3. Tourism (current trends, future initiatives)
	12:00	Conclusions and next steps
	12:30	Lunch
	13:30 to 16:00	Optional: excursion or visit of the museum

Map of Tolmin

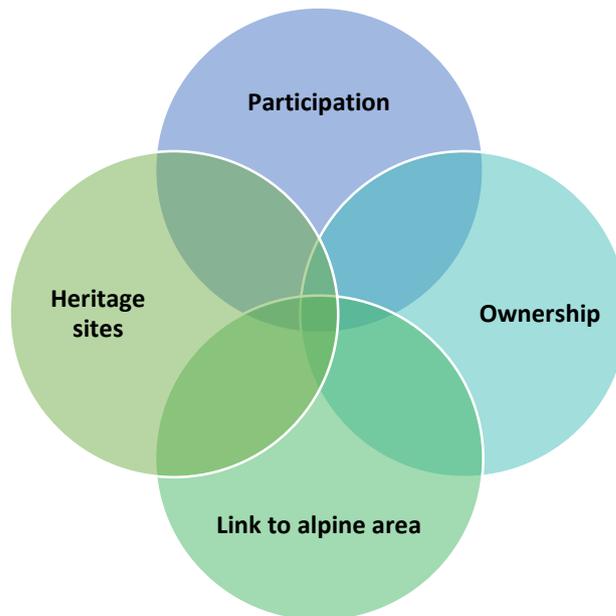


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Check-list for the organisation of the excursions and workshops: Which topics can be addressed where?



Four thematic fields

		Tolmin
Participation of the civil society	What is the right “size” of participation? Who should be involved? Should all inhabitants participate or only a selection? How can this selection be done, for e.g. if nobody is living/working in the building yet?	
	How can architects, experts, and planners be convinced about the importance of involving the population?	
	Which level of participation is appropriate: information (e.g. website, journals, etc.), participation in study trips, or participation in decision making?	
	How can young people be involved and how can the transformation of buildings contribute to keeping young people in town?	x

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Ownership	How can ownership issues be addressed in a constructive way?	X
	How to deal with private or multiple ownership?	X
	How to motivate private owners to invest in the transformation of buildings? Who should carry the costs? Who has better access to funds?	
	How can the ideas of the owners be balanced with the needs and expectations of the municipality regarding the destiny of buildings?	
Heritage sites	How to deal with restrictive (heritage) rules regarding the transformation and public access of heritage buildings, religious buildings, military buildings, etc.?	
	How can history and new technologies be combined in a successful way?	
Link to alpine area	How can the transformation of conversion areas strengthen the link between the town and the surrounding alpine area? Which are the alpine specificities of such areas?	X

Approach and methodology

		Tolmin
Learn from past experiences	Learning from good practices	X
	Learning from past mistakes and problems	
	Sharing ideas	X
	Strengthening cooperation between towns	X
Generating new ideas	How can new ideas be generated to convert old buildings?	X
	Allowing creative approach to find new forms of use: mixed, flexible or temporary use, minimal interventions, etc.	

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Useful and practical ideas	Tangible results that can be implemented	
	Fill areas/sites with life	X
	Find solutions for all stages of transformation within a long term process	X
	Access to (EU) funds and develop a broader project	
Other		